NUMB. CCXXXII.

The SPECTATOR.

Nihil largiendo gloriam adeptus eſt. Salluſt.

Monday, November 26. 1711.

MY wife and good Friend Sir *Andrew Freeport* divides himſelf almoſt equally between the Town and the Country: His Time in Town is given up to the Publick and the ...ement of his private Fortune; and after every ... four Days ſpent in this Manner, he retires for ... to his Seat within a few Miles of the Town, ... Enjoyment of himſelf, his Family, and his ... Thus Buſineſs and Pleaſure, or rather, in Sir ... Labour and Reſt, recommend each other: ... their Turns with ſo quick a Viciſſitude, that ...becomes a Habit, or takes Poſſeſſion of the ...an; nor is it poſſible he ſhould be forfeited ...ur. I often ſee him at our Club in good Hu... and yet ſometimes too with an Air of Care in ...: But in his Country Retreat he is always ...d ſuch a Companion as I could deſire; and ... I ſeldom fail to make one with him when he ... to invite me.

...er Day, aſſoon as we were got into his Cha... or three Beggars on each Side hung upon the ... ſollicited our Charity with the uſual Rhe... of a ſick Wife or Husband at Home, three or ...hapleſs little Children all ſtarving with Cold and ... We were forc'd to part with ſome Money to ... their Importunity; and then we proceeded ...urney with the Bleſſings and Acclamations of ...ople.

... then, ſays Sir *Andrew*, we go off with the ... and good Wiſhes of the Beggars, and perhaps ...r Healths will be drank at the next Ale-Houſe: ... we ſhall be able to value our ſelves upon, is, ...we have promoted the Trade of the Victualler, ...the Exciſes of the Government. But how few ...s of Wooll do we ſee upon the Backs of thoſe ...Creatures? And when they ſhall next fall in ...Way, they will hardly be better dreſt; they muſt ...live in Rags to look like Objects of Com... If their Families too are ſuch as they are ...ented, 'tis certain they cannot be better cloath... muſt be a great deal worſe fed: One would ...Potatoes ſhould be all their Bread, and their ...the pure Element; and then what goodly ...ers are the Farmers like to have for their ...Corn and Cattle? Such Cuſtomers and ſuch ...mption cannot chuſe but advance the landed ... and hold up the Rents of the Gentleman ...of all Men living, we Merchants, who live by ...and Selling, ought never to encourage Beg... Goods which we export are indeed the Pro...e Lands, but much the greateſt Part of their ...the Labour of the People: But how much of ...ſuch Peoples Labour ſhall we export, whilſt we hire ...them to lie ſtill? The very Alms they receive from ...us, are the Wages of Idleneſs. I have often thought ...that no Man ſhould be permitted to take Relief from ...the Parish, or to aſk it in the Street, till he has firſt "purchas'd as much as poſſible of his own Livelihood "by the Labour of his own Hands; and then the "Publick ought only to be tax'd to make good the De"ficiency. If this Rule was ſtrictly obſerved, we "ſhould ſee every where ſuch a Multitude of new La"bourers, as would in all Probability reduce the Prices "of all our Manufactures. It is the very Life of Mer"chandiſe to buy cheap and ſell dear. The Merchant "ought to make his Out-ſet as cheap as poſſible, that he "may find the greater Profit upon his Returns; and "nothing will enable him to do this like the Reduction "of the Price of Labour upon all our Manufactures. "This too would be the ready Way to increaſe the "Number of our foreign Markets: The Abatement "of the Price of the Manufacture would pay for the "Carriage of it to more diſtant Countries; and this "Conſequence would be equally beneficial both to the "landed and trading Intereſts. As ſo great an Addi"tion of Labouring Hands would produce this happy "Conſequence both to the Merchant and the Gentle"man; our Liberality to common Beggars, and every "other Obſtruction to the Increaſe of Labourers, muſt "be equally pernicious to both.

Sir *Andrew* then went on to affirm, That the Reduction of the Prices of our Manufactures by the Addition of ſo many new Hands, would be no Inconvenience to any Man: But obſerving I was ſomething ſtartled at the Aſſertion, he made a ſhort Pauſe, and then reſum'd the Diſcourſe. "It may ſeem, ſays he, a "Paradox, that the Price of Labour ſhould be reduc'd "without an Abatement of Wages, or that Wages "can be abated without any Inconvenience to the "Labourer; and yet nothing is more certain than "that both thoſe things may happen. The Wages of "the Labourers make the greateſt Part of the Price of "every thing that is uſeful; and if in Proportion "with the Wages the Prices of all other things ſhall be "abated, every Labourer with leſs Wages would be "ſtill able to purchaſe as many Neceſſaries of Life, "where then would be the Inconvenience? But the "Price of Labour may be reduc'd by the Addition of "more Hands to a Manufacture, and yet the Wages of "Perſons remain as high as ever. The admirable "Sir *William Petty* has given Examples of this in ſome "of his Writings: One of them, as I remember, is "that of a Watch, which I ſhall endeavour to explain "ſo as ſhall ſuit my preſent Purpoſe. It is certain that "a ſingle Watch could not be made ſo cheap in Pro"portion by one only Man, as a hundred Watches by "a hundred; for as there is moſt Variety in the Work, "no one Perſon could equally ſuit himſelf to all the "Parts of it; the Manufacture would be tedious, and it "laſt but clumſily performed: But if an hundred "Watches were to be made by a hundred Men, the "Caſes may be aſſigned to one, the Dials to another, "the Wheels to another, the Springs to another, and "every other Part to a proper Artiſt; as there would

"be

" be no need of perplexing any one Perſon with too " much Variety, every one would be able to perform " his ſingle Part with greater Skill and Expedition; " and the hundred Watches would be finiſhed in one-" fourth Part of the Time of the firſt one, and every " one of them at one-fourth Part of the Coſt, though " the Wages of every Man were equal. The Reduc-" tion of the Price of the Manufacture would increaſe " the Demand of it, all the ſame Hands would be ſtill " employed and as well paid. The ſame Rule will " hold in the Cloathing, the Shipping, and all the other " Trades whatſoever. And thus an Addition of " Hands to our Manufactures will only reduce the " Price of them; the Labourer will ſtill have as much " Wages, and will conſequently be enabled to pur-" chaſe more Conveniencies of Life; ſo that every " Intereſt in the Nation would receive a Bene-" fit from an Increaſe of our working People.

" Beſides, I ſee no Occaſion for this Charity to com-" mon Beggars, ſince every Beggar is an Inhabitant of " a Pariſh, and every Pariſh is tax'd to the Mainte-" nance of their own Poor. For my own Part, I can-" not be mightily pleas'd with the Laws which have " done this, which have provided better to feed than " employ the Poor. We have a Tradition from our " Forefathers, that after the firſt of thoſe Laws was " made, they were inſulted with that famous Song,

Hang Sorrow, caſt away Care,
The Pariſh is bound to find us, &c.

" And if we will be ſo good-natur'd as to maintain " them without Work, they can do no leſs in Return " than ſing us *The merry Beggars.*

" What then? am I againſt all Acts of Charity? " God forbid! I know of no Virtue in the Goſpel that " is in more pathetical Expreſſions recommended to our " Practice. *I was hungry and you gave me no Meat, thir-" ſty and you gave me no Drink; naked and you cloathed me " not, a Stranger and you took me not in; ſick and in Pri-" ſon and you viſited me not.* Our bleſſed Saviour treats " the Exerciſe or Neglect of Charity towards a poor " Man, as the Performance or Breach of this Duty " towards himſelf. I ſhall endeavour to obey the Will " of my Lord and Maſter: And therefore if an in-" duſtrious Man ſhall ſubmit to the hardeſt Labour " and coarſeſt Fare, rather than endure the Shame of " taking Relief from the Pariſh or asking it in the " Street, this is the Hungry, the Thirſty, the " Naked; and I ought to believe if any Man is come " hither for Shelter againſt Perſecution or Oppreſſion, " this is the Stranger, and I ought to take him in. If " any Countryman of our own is fallen into the Hands " of Infidels, and lives in a State of miſerable Capti-" vity, this is the Man in Priſon, and I ſhould contri-" bute to his Ranſom. I ought to give to an Hoſpital " of Invalids, to recover as many uſeful Subjects as I " can; but I ſhall beſtow none of my Bounties upon " an Almſhouſe of idle People; and for the ſame Rea-" ſon I ſhould not think it a Reproach to me if I had " withheld my Charity from thoſe common Beggars. " But we preſcribe better Rules than we are able to " practiſe; we are aſham'd not to give into the miſta-" ken Cuſtoms of our Country: But at the ſame Time " I cannot but think it a Reproach worſe than that of " common Swearing, that the Idle and the Abandon-" ed are ſuffered in the Name of Heaven and all that " is ſacred, to extort from chriſtian and tender Minds " a Supply to a profligate Way of Life, that is always " to be ſupported but never relieved.

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AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this preſent Monday, being the 26th of November, will be preſented, a Comedy call'd, Sir Courtly Nice; or, It cannot be. The Part of Sir Courtly by Mr. Cibber, Surly by Keene, Lord Formal by Mr. Mills, Mothead by Mr. Bullock Sen. Teſtimony by Johnſon, Crack by Mr. Penkethman, Farewell by Mr. Bullock Jun. Lenora by Mrs. Oldfield, Violante by Mrs. Bicknel, the Author by Mrs. Powell.

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The remaining Part of the Cargoe of the Frigate, conſiſting of fine Tea, China Ware, &c. will be ſold To Morrow, being the 27th Inſtant, at 10 of the Clock in the Forenoon, at Garraway's Coffee-houſe in Exchange-Alley.

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